Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

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NATIONAL GUARD

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. Jane Lux and Ms. Deborah Morrison

Learning Objectives

- Understand DoD's sexual assault prevention and response policy
- Understand Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) responsibilities to the program, victims, the command, case management, and victim advocates (VA)

Responsibility

Program
Responsibility

- Command Responsibility
- Case Management Responsibility
- Victim Advocate Responsibility

SARC's Roles and Responsibilities

Program Responsibility

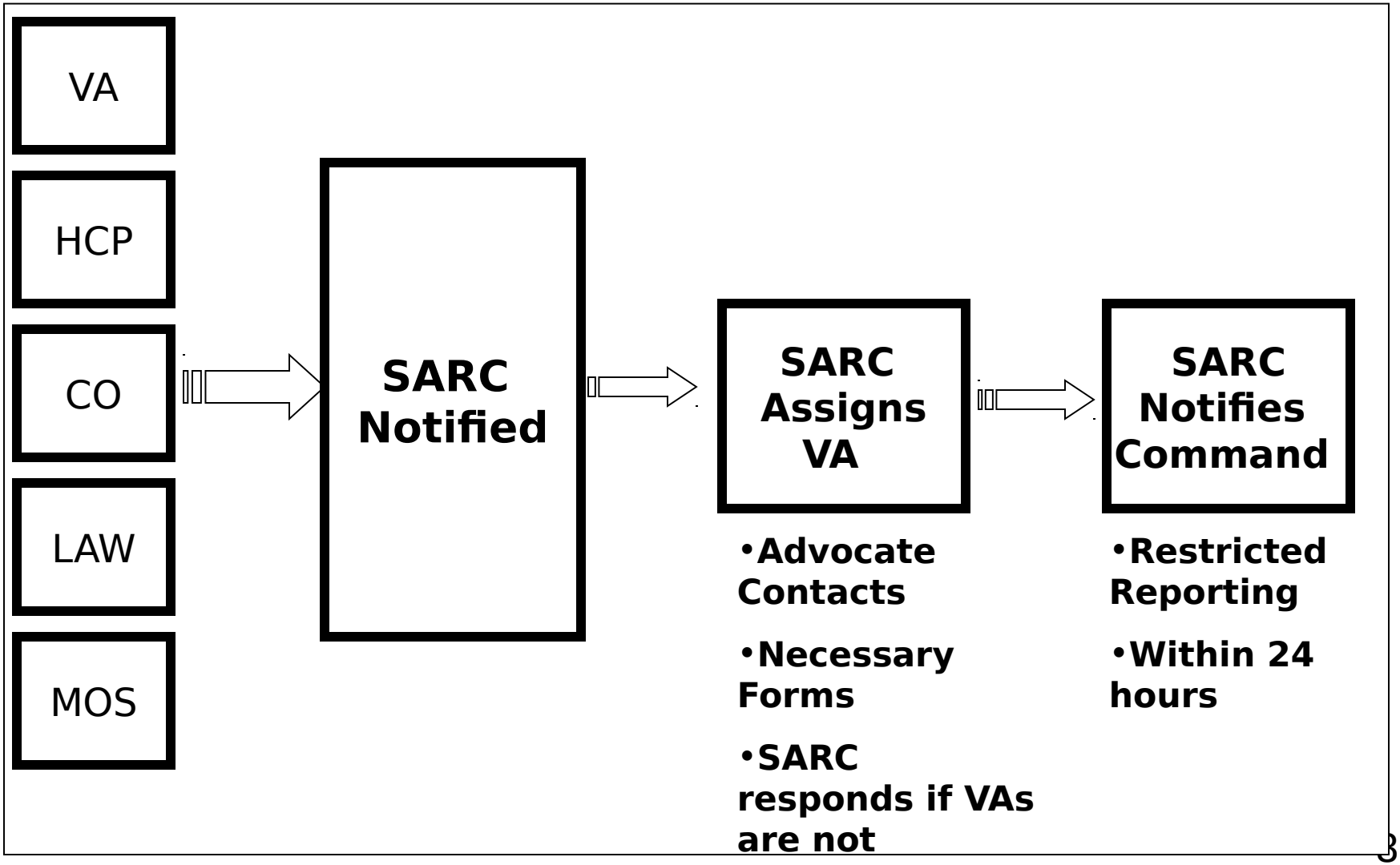
Program Responsibility

- The SARC is the “center of gravity” for the program
- DoD expects SARC to lead
- SARC is a “change agent”
- To be successful, SARC must be flexible, creative, and resourceful

Program Responsibility

- Designated program manager for victim support services
- Works to support Command
- Serves as chairperson for case review meetings
- Coordinates with first response groups to improve system's response to sexual assault incidents
- Oversees VAs

Incident Process



Ensuring Victims' Privacy

- For all types of reports, every effort should be made to ensure victim privacy
  - "Need to know" policy
  - Always ask: Is it necessary and appropriate to share this information?
  - VA/SARC subject to punitive action for failure to protect the victim's privacy

Dot Connector

- Reviews all reports
  - Unrestricted
  - Restricted
- Detects trends/patterns
- Works through VA to the victim
- Medical/JAG resources

SARC's Roles and Responsibilities

Command Responsibility

Command Responsibility

- Primary responsibility to work with Command in order to improve services for victims of sexual assault
- “Single point of contact” for coordinating sexual assault prevention and response
- SARC “works the system” to meet victim needs

Command Relationship

- SARC reports to designated Commander

- SARC must assist Command in executing the goals of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, including:
  - Ensuring Command understands the program and their responsibilities within the program
  - Tracking sexual assault incidents
  - Monitoring training requirements
  - Marketing the program
  - Advising Command of any limitations in the program and possible solutions in deployed environments

Command Relationship

- Command responsible for all of the following:
  - Determining best course of action for separating victim from offender, including, transferring victim/offender, MPO, etc.
  - Ensuring victims receive monthly reports regarding status of case
  - Determining how best to dispose of collateral misconduct

Working with Command

- Need to understand and respect differences between SARC's role and Command's role
  - Command: Safety and well-being of service members and their families
  - SARC: Advocate for sexual assault program
- Must find common ground
- Essential to build this relationship for success of the program

Conflicts of Interest

- SARC must be aware of potential conflicts of interest with Command, including
  - Command may request additional information about a restricted case
  - Command responsibilities to fulfill mission readiness may conflict at times with a victim's interests
  - In a deployed environment, there may be a greater need for information due to safety, logistics, etc.

SARC's Roles and Responsibilities

Case Management Responsibility

Case Management Responsibility

- Responsible for tracking services provided to the victim
- Tracks the disposition of all military sexual assault cases
- Ensures appropriate documentation and reporting of all sexual assault incidents
- Tracks the data on sexual assaults that are received and reported

Case Management Responsibility

- Determines need for MOUs with non-military agencies
- Maintains liaisons with response groups
- Markets/advertises program information
- Coordinates Sexual Assault Review Board

Building Liaisons

- SARC needs to build liaisons with military and civilian response groups, particularly:
  - Law enforcement
  - Medical facilities
  - Forensic evidence collection and preservation
- Liaisons with Civilian Resources
- Cannot sit behind desk

SARC's Roles and Responsibilities

Victim Advocate Responsibility

SARC/VA Relationship

- Ensure VA have knowledge/tools
- Keep VA in their lane
- Protect the VA
- Monitor VA's well being
- Instill confidence with the system

Training of VA

- Recurring
- Use your resources
  - Investigators
  - Medical
  - Local crisis center

Helping VA Achieve Balance

- SARC must ensure that the VA balances advocacy duties with system responsibilities
- Utilize Monthly Meeting

Protection of VA

- Subtle intimidation
- Primary duty performance
- Check-in with VA supervisor

Wrong Fit

- Re-training
- Work with the appointing CO
- Screening tool
- Victim feedback

Working in a Deployed Environment

- SARCs and VAs responding in theater face additional challenges:
  - A reduction in available resources
  - Victim privacy may be difficult to maintain
  - Separating the victim from the offender may be more difficult for Command
  - Victims may have more safety concerns
  - Victims' emotional reactions may be exacerbated by combat stress
  - Embedded reporters
  - Convening members of the case review meeting
  - SARC may not be physically accessible to VAs

SARC Bottom Line

- Multiple Responsibilities
  - Facilitator
  - Arbitrator
  - Educator
- Key to institutionalization
- Must be visible/engaged
- Spirit and intent
  - Rebalancing our approach